

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were pending in this application and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended and claims 11-13 have been canceled.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

All rejections made by the Examiner in this Office Action are moot. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 11 and 12. In amending claim 1, Applicants removed the phrase "a household electrical appliance, particularly a refrigerator." Claim 4 has also been amended to remove the phrase ", for example of metal,." Finally, claim 13 has been canceled.

Drawing Rejections

The Examiner noted in this Office Action that claims 11-13 fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claims 11-13 have been canceled, however the inventive features have been included in the currently amended claim 1. Therefore, we will respond to the Examiner's argument with respect to claim 1.

In the present application at paragraph 10, the specification defines the hinge as a double-parallelogram hinge and says that a single parallelogram hinge can be used instead. In paragraph 14, the hinge 3 is described as having two portions 3A and 3B that are moveable to each other, with each of the hinge elements have a fixing end or base 10. I would call the bases 10 a mounting bracket as each mounts to the corresponding cabinet 1 and door 2.

Claim 1, as currently amended, calls for the hinge to comprise bases (the two bases 10) secured to the cabinet and to the door and with at least two portions (3A and 3B) moveable relative to each other. Claim 1 further calls for the hinge portions to define at least one articulated parallelogram. Applicants believe currently amended claim 1 is fully supported by the drawings and the specification.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mills, U.S. Patent No. 2,778,000. Claim 13 has been canceled and thus the rejection is moot with respect to this claim. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1-9.

Independent claim 1, as included and amended herein, clearly defines and claims, among other elements, “the hinge is of the type comprising bases secured to the cabinet and to the door and at least two portions movable relative to each other and defining at least one articulated parallelogram which is electrically conductive.”

Mills discloses a hinge adapted to convey an electrical current from a stationary object to a movable object. The hinge 12 comprises a hinge butt 13 and hinge leaf 14. The hinge butt 13 is provided with an upper overhanging cylindrical shaped hollow projection 23 and a similarly shaped lower projection 24 space therebelow. The hinge leaf is provided with a flat portion 14a from which two spaced apart cylindrical projections 40 and 41 extend. Essentially, Mills teaches a traditional hinge having a hinge butt and a hinge leaf.

“To anticipate, every element and limitation of the claimed invention must be found in a single prior art reference, arranged as in the claim.” *Brown v. 3M*, 265 F.2d 1349, 1351 (Fed. Cir. 2001); *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Applicants cannot find any teaching or suggestion in Mills of a hinge of the type comprising bases secured to the cabinet and to the

door and at least two portions movable relative to each other and defining at least one articulated parallelogram which is electrically conductive as is claimed in independent claim 1 in this application.

Because Mills does not contain "every element and limitation of the claimed invention," *Brown, supra*, the Examiner's §102 rejections of Claim 1 should be withdrawn. Additionally, since claims 2-9 depend from and include the same distinctive features of one of claim 1, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills in view of Pulaski, U.S. Patent No. 3,089,202. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled and thus the rejection with respect to these claims is moot. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to claim 10.

It is necessary that Mills or Pulaski teach or suggest every element of the invention in this application for a §103 rejection to be applicable. Neither Mills nor Pulaski teach or suggest every element of the invention and thus the Examiner's §103 rejection is improper.

As previously stated, Mills discloses and claims a hinge adapted to convey an electrical current from a stationary object to a movable object. The hinge 12 comprises a hinge butt 13 and hinge leaf 14. The hinge butt 13 is provided with an upper overhanging cylindrical shaped hollow projection 23 and a similarly shaped lower projection 24 space therebelow. The hinge leaf is provided with a flat portion 14a from which two spaced apart cylindrical projections 40 and 41 extend. Essentially, Mills does disclose a traditional hinge having a hinge butt and a hinge leaf and does not disclose a hinge of the type comprising bases secured to the cabinet and to the door and at least two portions movable relative to each other and defining at least one

articulated parallelogram which is electrically conductive as is claimed in independent claim 1, the claim from which claim 10 depends, in this application. Moreover, Mills does not teach or even suggest the embedding of conductors in the insulating material of the cabinet or door as is claimed in dependent claim 10 of this application.

Pulaski teaches a foam-insulated door having an electrical hinge arrangement for accommodating conductors supplying electric energy to an electrical device mounted on the door. The hinge comprises a bracket 14 secured to the face of the cabinet 15 and has an opening 18 in the horizontal portion 17 of the bracket 14 for receiving one end of a hollow hinge pin 19. Additionally, a pair of conductors 23 extend from the cabinet through the hollow hinge pin 19 and into the space between the inner and outer panels 3 and 4. However, Pulaski does not disclose the embedding of the conductors in the insulating material of the cabinet or door as is claimed in dependent claim 10.

For these reasons, the Examiner's §103 rejections of Claim 10 have been overcome and should respectfully be withdrawn..

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants believe that claims 1-10 are in condition for immediate allowance. It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims in the application are allowable over the prior art of record. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned attorney.

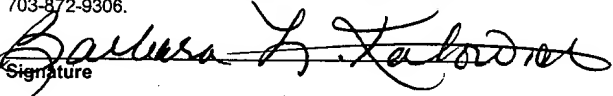
Respectfully submitted,



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